

REMARKS

All claims have been finally rejected except for claim 48, which the Examiner has noted would be allowable if put in independent form. In order to expedite the allowance of this application, now under Final Rejection, Applicants have put claim 48 in independent form as suggested by the Examiner, by inserting the limitations thereof into independent claims 24 and 28 upon which claim 48 was dependent. Amended claims 24 and 28 are therefore believed to now be in allowable form. Claims 25-27 and 45-49 are dependent on amended claims 24 and 28, and therefore should be allowable as well.¹ Rejected claims 29-44 and 48-50 have been cancelled.

Entry of the above amendments after Final Rejection is believed to be in order, in that they place this application in condition for allowance in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Following entry of these amendments, claims 24-28 and 45-47 remaining pending in this application.

Applicants remain of the belief that the previously claimed subject matter deleted by the above amendments is patentably distinct from the cited references. Therefore, these amendments are being made without abandonment or prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute any subject matter thereby deleted in one or more continuing applications.

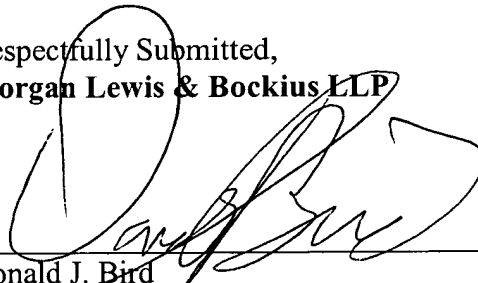
Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that this application and all claims are now in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

¹ Dependent claim 47 has also been amended to correct a minor typographical error.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Director is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully Submitted,
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